

**CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00pm at 3515 Broad St.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners:

Becky Murillo – Present
Jamie Griffin – Present
Toni Henkemeyer – Absent
Anne Marques – Present
Melissa Messer – Present
Ron Miller – Absent
Joanne Wagner – Present
Jeanette Frost – Present

Student Representatives:

Sadie Gehan – Present
Annalena Eisel – Present
Owen Biggert – Present

Others Present: Josh Tanghe, Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Griffin; seconded by Murillo to approve the minutes from June 21, 2022 as presented.

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Griffin; seconded by Marques to approve the agenda with the following amendment(s):

- None

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. CHAIR

B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO

C. STAFF REPORT

Staff gave updates on the following items:

- Staff provided an update on the current status of the “Walk Your Wheels” stencils. In order to provide a more long-term solution, staff got information on ground decals to be used in place of the stencils
 - P&R members were interested in stickers or signs, as the stencils fade too quickly to necessarily be effective at curbing bike usage on the sidewalks in downtown
 - A member of P&R suggested the possibility of using mirrors to help people avoid collisions
- Staff provided information to P&R regarding City Council’s interest in conducting an ADA audit of the parks system and wanted to see if Parks was interested in being involved with it
 - A member of P&R mentioned that this may have been done before in some capacity
- Staff updated P&R on the status of the expression swings with Sinclair
- Staff provided and update on the new kiosk that will be installed down by the B2B Trail near Forest Lawn Cemetery
- P&R member Griffin brought up some comments made by a resident regarding some maintenance needs he noticed in Community Park

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Marques, seconded by Wagner to appoint Murillo as Chair.

Ayes: Griffin, Marques, Messer, Wagner, Frost

Nays: None

Due to the absence of Henkemeyer and Miller, election of the Vice Chair will be postponed to the August meeting.

B. DISCUSSION OF: MILL CREEK PARK PLAYGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the following related to the Mill Creek Park Playground:

- As a part of the discussion for the meeting, staff requested that members of P&R provide information or links to the various elements, equipment or structures that they wished to include as part of future discussions. Staff used links provided by P&R members as a part of the discussion for the MCP North playground
 - Staff brought up the various elements on the big screen for discussion
- P&R members asked the student reps their thoughts on the playground and what they would use in the park
 - Log elements may be appealing to older kids
 - Ping pong tables and hammocks would be more popular among different age groups
- Popular ideas discussed on the playground included:
 - Keeping the colors muted (nature themed)
 - Potentially include a rock wall that would be attractive to people of all ages
 - The inclusion of sand boxes or spinners?
- Pending the cost of potential playground options, various funding sources would need to be looked at. Those options would include:

- Crowdfunding (GoFundMe, Etc.)
 - Grants
 - UofM Robotics
- Other options to construct the playground could be an RFP
- Staff asked members of P&R whether they are married to the nature theme (to see if other themes could be applicable) and what the composition of the playground could look like (one larger structure with small elements/a few medium elements/etc.)
- Additional climbing rocks have been popular among P&R members, especially natural-looking rocks the be included in the playground and along the slope
- Staff will put together a Google Sheet where members of P&R can see pricing of various elements that they have preferences toward. Staff will reach out to the vendors and then P&R members can check off elements they prefer

OLD BUSINESS

None

PARKS AND TREES MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

None

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following items were discussed as a part of general discussion or as proposed business for future meetings:

- The election of the Vice Chair
- Getting an additional trash can for the top of the switchback after the original can was moved down into Mill Creek Park
- Pricing on a fido fountain
 - P&R members could see it fitting well into Monument Park where the current water fountains are located
- Adjusting the number of bucket swings in Mill Creek Park

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Griffin, seconded by Marques to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Unanimous Voice Vote
Motion Adopted

Josh Tanghe
Assistant to the City Manager